

Introduced by Senator PerataFebruary 23, 2007

An act relating to renewable energy resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 660, as introduced, Perata. Renewable energy resources: supplemental energy payments.

The Public Utilities Act imposes various duties and responsibilities on the Public Utilities Commission with respect to the purchase of electricity and requires the commission to review and adopt a procurement plan and a renewable energy procurement plan for each electrical corporation pursuant to the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program (RPS program). The RPS program requires that a retail seller of electricity, including electrical corporations, community choice aggregators, and electric service providers, but not including local publicly owned electric utilities, purchase a specified minimum percentage of electricity generated by eligible renewable energy resources, as defined, in any given year as a specified percentage of total kilowatthours sold to retail end-use customers each calendar year.

Existing law requires the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) to certify eligible renewable energy resources, to design and implement an accounting system to verify compliance with the renewables portfolio standard by retail sellers, and to allocate and award supplemental energy payments to cover above-market costs of purchasing electricity from renewable energy resources.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to reform the awarding of supplemental energy payments pursuant to the RPS program to accomplish certain objectives.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact
2 legislation to reform the awarding of supplemental energy
3 payments pursuant to the renewables portfolio standard program,
4 to accomplish all of the following:
- 5 (a) Streamline the approval of contracts executed by a retail
6 seller for the purchase of electricity generated by an eligible
7 renewable energy resource, as defined in Section 399.12 of the
8 Public Utilities Code, that involve above-market costs.
- 9 (b) Ensure that the above-market costs awarded for the purchase
10 of electricity generated from an eligible renewable energy resource
11 can be relied upon in obtaining project financing.
- 12 (c) Minimize unnecessary delays and duplicative reviews by
13 the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development
14 Commission and the Public Utilities Commission in the awarding
15 of supplemental energy payments.
- 16 (d) Continue meaningful ratepayer protections through limits
17 on the total costs of meeting the renewable energy goals established
18 pursuant to Article 16 (commencing with Section 399.11) of Part
19 1 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code.